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Application No. 09/822,693
Amendment dated April 25, 2003
Response to Office Action of Oct. 25, 2003

Claim Amendments

A complete list of all the presently or formerly pending claims in the application is provided below, with suitable headings to show the status of each claim.

Claim 1 (Original): A method of operating a solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell comprising:

supplying an oxidant reactant stream to the cathode electrode of said fuel cell;

supplying a fuel reactant stream to the anode electrode of said fuel cell;

monitoring a temperature parameter indicative of the operating temperature of said fuel cell; and

when said temperature parameter is below a predetermined threshold value, reactant starving at least a portion of one of said electrodes.

Claim 2 (Currently cancelled without prejudice)

Claim 3 (Currently cancelled without prejudice)

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22 Claim ⁵~~4~~ (New): The method of claim 1 wherein said reactant starving is intermittent.

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Claim ~~5~~⁶ (New): The method of claim 1 wherein said reactant starving comprises interrupting the supply of one of said reactant streams to said respective fuel cell electrodes.

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Claim ~~6~~⁷ (New): The method of claim ~~5~~⁶ wherein said method comprises intermittently interrupting the supply of one of said reactant streams to said fuel cell electrodes.

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Claim ~~7~~⁸ (New): The method of claim ~~5~~⁶ wherein said one of said reactant streams is said fuel reactant stream.

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Claim ~~8~~⁹ (New): The method of claim ~~5~~⁶ wherein said one of said reactant streams is said oxidant reactant stream.


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Claim ~~9~~¹⁰ (New): The method of claim ~~5~~⁶ wherein said fuel cell is one of a plurality of fuel cells arranged in a fuel cell stack.

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Claim ~~10~~¹¹ (New): The method of claim ~~9~~¹⁰ wherein said supply of one of said reactant streams to each of said plurality of fuel cells is not simultaneously interrupted.

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Claim ¹²~~11~~ (New): The method of claim 1 wherein said method comprises connecting a transient electrical load to draw electrical power from said fuel cell.


Claim ¹³~~12~~ (New): The method of claim ¹²~~11~~ wherein said method comprises intermittently connecting a transient electrical load to draw electrical power from said fuel cell.

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Claim ¹⁴~~13~~ (New): The method of claim ¹²~~11~~ wherein the rates of supply of said reactants to said fuel cell electrodes are not increased in response to the connection of said transient load.

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Claim ¹⁵~~14~~ (New): The method of claim ¹²~~11~~ wherein said fuel cell is one of a plurality of fuel cells arranged in a fuel cell stack, and the connection of said transient load to draw power from each one of said plurality of fuel cells is not simultaneous.

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Claim ¹⁶~~15~~ (New): The method of claim 1 wherein said reactant streams are essentially free of electrocatalyst poisons.

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Claim ¹⁷~~16~~ (New): The method of claim ¹⁶~~15~~ wherein said fuel reactant stream is substantially pure hydrogen.

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Claim ¹⁸~~17~~ (New): The method of claim ⁵~~4~~ wherein said fuel cell is one of a plurality of fuel cells arranged in a fuel cell stack and said reactant starving causes a voltage reversal to occur in at least one of said plurality of fuel cells.

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Claim ¹⁹~~18~~ (New): The method of claim ¹⁸~~17~~ wherein said fuel cell is one of a plurality of fuel cells arranged in a fuel cell stack and said reactant starving causes a voltage reversal to occur in at least one of said plurality of fuel cells.
